



543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

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www.ashlandquakers.org

SUNDAY AM SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person and
via Zoom (link below)

3 May No First Hour Activity
10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

10 May Adult Education
Worship sharing on "What happens
in the silence for you?"

17 May Business Meeting
new time 9-10:30 am
IN PERSON ONLY (for hybrid,
contact Rochelle in a timely fashion)

24 May How To Quaker
Discourse and then Worship Sharing
on the Testimony of Stewardship
Simple Breakfast to Follow

31 May Peace & Social Concerns
Middle East Turmoil: Discussion &
Postcard Writing *Details on page 4*

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon EVERY Sunday

**Hybrid: Both at the Quaker
Meeting House and by Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon
Fifth Month 2026

LEAD WITH LOVE!

CREATE POSSIBILITIES
DISCERN LEADINGS OF THE SPIRIT
ACT WITH THE POWER OF LOVE



ARE YOU CURIOUS?
JOIN US IN THE FOREST

WILLAMETTE QUARTERLY MEETING

SPRING GATHERING

MAY 15-17, 2026

CAMP LUTHERWOOD

CHESHIRE OREGON

Online registration April 1st thru April 29th

www.willamette.npym.org

Willamette QUARTERLY is the all-Oregon part of North Pacific YEARLY Meeting (OR, WA, ID, MT). It's a fun way to meet other Oregonian Quakers and deepen social and spiritual connections.

The website address on the above poster is wrong. Instead use: <https://www.npym.org/willamette> or click here for details or to register (BY 29 APRIL):

[Camp Fact Sheet](#)

[Register](#)

Celebrating the Life of Pat Scuitto

**Memorial Meeting for Worship:
A Quaker-Inspired Silence and Spoken Reflections**

2 pm Saturday 23 May at our Meeting House

All Are Welcome, whether or not you knew Pat

Memorial Minute: This biographical account will be spoken into the Silence:



Patricia Scuitto, born Patricia Woodward in Portland, Oregon, on 14 April 1932, died peacefully at home in Talent, Oregon, on 14 December 2025, at the age of 93. Pat married Tom Scuitto in Seattle in 1951; this past June they celebrated their 74th anniversary.

Pat and Tom had four children, three of whom survive: Ted (wife Debbie); Phil (wife Shirley); and Christopher. Their youngest child, Melissa, died in 2013. There are six grandchildren.

Pat was born into a Quaker family, attended the Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio, and was an active member in various meetings before she and Tom moved to Southern Oregon. She transferred her membership to South Mountain Meeting (then known as Rogue Valley Meeting) in 1994. Pat served the Meeting as Presiding Clerk, was active on several committees, participated actively in the Quaker Women's Group, and was at one time Clerk of Willamette Quarterly Meeting. She was a friendly, kind, interesting and interested presence in our Meeting. When occasionally she was moved to speak out of the silence in worship, she spoke with wisdom and with love.

Pat attended Syracuse University, where she and Tom met, and she earned a degree in home economics/nutrition. Later she studied Greek mythology and dream interpretation. A devoted mother, she enjoyed raising her children and inevitably became the center of the family, the matriarch. With the two younger children, she and Tom sailed a 58' yawl from Seattle to the Galapagos and Tahiti and back – an adventure of nearly a year. After the children were grown, Pat worked as a realtor and for a time served as president of the Ashland Board of Realtors.

For more than 20 years Pat and Tom worked together building a home in the Talent hills. In that home, they enjoyed spectacular views, Pat's collection of Native American crafts, and reading to one another in the evenings. More recently they moved to a smaller home which, with all its contents, burned in the 2020 Almeda Fire. They then moved to another home in Talent, where Tom still lives.

Pat will be remembered as helpful, hopeful, adaptable, strong yet tender, respected, and loved. She is greatly missed.

**“We might count our wealth by the change
in our pocket, but we count our worth
by the change in the world.” —Anonymous**

Joyful Abundance

Our Meeting has been sitting with a delightful challenge: How to use the abundance of financial resources we find ourselves holding at this moment? Our Ad Hoc Committee on said challenge has been exploring and delving into this question. Our Friend Nancy Spear shared with us a possible way we might use this abundance. I found myself emotionally moved and heartened by this idea and how it encapsulates our testimonies and what it means to follow Quaker practice. Here's Nancy's proposal. —Andra Hollenbeck, Clerk, Ministry & Counsel Committee

Dear Friends,

Having read an article in a recent Peace House newsletter, I was inspired to contribute my proposal for the \$ abundance of our Meeting.

I propose that South Mountain Friends Meeting give \$1000 to each of 40 families in our community, the recipients being those who are suffering mentally and financially from the results of the hatred, cruelty, revenge, deportation or potential deportation, loss of jobs—especially federal workers—higher prices for food and gas, any loss of income, caused by the current authoritarian government of this/our country, the United States of America.

The families can be recommended by South Mountain participants, and if possible continue relationships through this connection over time, if the recipients so wish.

Some or any of the people involved may want to learn more about Quakers and may join with us in worship.

The Quaker values of Stewardship, Community, Equality, Simplicity, Integrity and Peace would be served, resulting in actions of Unconditional Love in our community, through this proposal. And what joy it would bring to the families, Quaker participants, and outside observers, possibly even inspiring other similar gifts.

I am looking forward to the retreat and discussions ahead. I am not personally attached to this inspiration, as way opened for me to share.

In Love and the Light,
Nancy Spear



Magic Penny

Chorus:

**Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.**

**It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.**

Chorus

**Money's dandy and we like to use it,
But love is better if you don't refuse it.
It's a treasure and you'll never lose it
Unless you lock up your door.**

Chorus

**So let's go dancing till the break of day,
And if there's a piper, we can pay.
For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.**

Chorus

**—Song by Malvina Reynolds
YouTube of Malvina singing
“Magic Penny”:**

[malvina reynolds-love is something.wmv](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=malvina-reynolds-love-is-something.wmv)

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Middle East Turmoil: Discussion & Postcard-Writing

9 am Sunday 31 May (In the Meeting House & on Zoom)



The Peace & Social Concerns Committee will facilitate a discussion about Israel-Palestine and the current aggressions against Iran and Lebanon, which are closely related to Israeli treatment of the Palestinians. Both the military and political situations are highly fluid at this time. If there is an opportunity for useful advocacy—for instance, a vote in Congress to authorize or end Trump’s commitment of armed forces without Congressional consent—the committee will move attendees from discussion into postcard-writing and extend that activity beyond the hour.

Both our US senators are opposed to this new war of choice, as are a gratifyingly large percentage of the US public. Cliff Bentz, our US representative, will be the focus of our grassroots advocacy. Actually, there’s no need to wait until 31 May to contact him: 1-202-225-6730, or on-line at <https://bentz.house.gov/contact>.

Discerning Meeting’s Priorities

For its education and advocacy, the Peace & Social Concerns Committee is guided by the priorities of the Meeting. Militarism and climate change were at the top of the list when we surveyed Friends, but that was long ago. The committee would like to discern whether priorities have changed or perhaps expanded. Right now, Friends can express their priorities by emailing me at (herbertrothschild6839@gmail.com). If and when you do that, it would help if you also indicated what energy you can contribute to work on your issue(s), since the committee is quite small. In the next few weeks P&SC will try to survey interest more systematically., probably with a questionnaire circulated at 2 or 3 consecutive meetings. —Herb Rothschild, clerk of Peace & Social Concerns.

Advices & Queries on Religious Education & Study

Friends study and learn throughout our lives in order to understand and deepen our experience of Truth and our Inner Teacher.

As individuals and families, we make manifest our search for Truth in every aspect of life and recognize that Truth may be found in many religions and spiritual practices. Friends participate, as they are led, in the spiritual education and formation of the meeting’s young people.

As we learn together, we spiritually nurture each other according to our gifts and leadings, participate more fully in our meetings, and deepen our understanding of the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends.

Do we help to develop the spiritual lives of all of our members, attenders, and children?

Do we all take part in educating ourselves about the history and heritage of Friends?

Do we prepare members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the Friends principles?

How do we teach Quaker worship and discernment and their importance to the good order of our meeting community?

Do we share our faith and spiritual journeys, as well as listen to and learn from others?

Do we encourage such sharing within our families and meeting communities?

Meeting for Worship for Business 19 April 2026

Friends Present: Rochelle Webster, Ann Gaffney, Adam Thompson, Andra Hollenbeck, Ken Deveney, Jean Semrau, Herb Rothschild, Bob Morse, Nancy Spear, Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Merlin McDaniel, Cathy McDaniel, Ká Herring, Fernando Gapasin, JoAnn Sustrick.

Action items

A brief discussion was had around using the OWL to have captioning available for business meeting. This discussion was referred to the Tech Committee and Ministry and Counsel.

Ministry & Counsel (M&C): Action items:

There is the desire to have more adult education. A very ad hoc Adult Ed Committee composed of Nancy Spear, JoAnn Sustrick, and Jean Semrau have identified a number of possible activities that would dovetail with the current How to Quaker offerings, which would not disappear. Friends are appreciative of the intention to be more diverse in our offering.

Friends discussed moving first hour activities from 9 to 9:30. This discussion was seasoned from last month. There is still not unity. There appears to be no spirit-led urgency for change. For now, we will remain at 9 am.

Some discussion was had about the way in which dates are determined for activities, and there is a desire to not have the full business meeting need to approve each date for first hour activities and other activities. The need for this process was sent to M&C.

Pat Scuitto's Memorial *Details p. 2*

2026.04.1 Friends approved the memorial minute for Pat Scuitto

Announcement: Josephine Olson's welcome date is pending.

Use of Savings & Abundance in Joy Ad Hoc Comm: Action Items:

The sense of this committee is that

part of the reason why we have such abundance is that it is difficult for leadings to move through the current process. Hence, the committee asked Friends to share any concerns they might have with the following idea: Forming a new committee open to a variety of leadings who would seek clearness from multiple Friends for multiple issues. It could then bring those specific leadings that have clarity and support to Business Meeting. This would save Business Meeting time and reduce the burden on M&C of creating a different clearness committee for each leading. Friends expressed many concerns for the Ad Hoc committee to consider.

One of the ideas that has arisen and been brought to the ad hoc committee is to use our savings to support those impacted by adverse actions of our current regime. Although Nancy has shared this idea, she shared that it came though her in a flash of light; she is delivering it to the Meeting rather than being the leading's keeper.

Announcement: The ad hoc committee to meet in May

Information Items

Treasurer's Report: This month we disbursed money for FCNL's Lobby Days support as well as for the purchase of the OWL to assist with making our Meeting accessible. Adam and Ann are coordinating on a time to go into the bank and sign paperwork to open a money market account.

Kitchen Bulletin boards updated

Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

We donate certain organizations as a way to show our support for the work these organizations do. This spring, we have donated \$50 to each of the following: Ashland Emergency Food Bank, Braver Angels Oregon Urban-Rural Project, Health Care for All Oregon, NAMI National Alliance for Mental Illness, Northwest Seasonal

Workers Association, Peace House, Resolve, Rogue Climate, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sexual Assault Response Team, SOCAN, Unite Oregon, The Crest, & Lanita Witt Memorial Scholarship Fund. Friends are encouraged to share their suggestions for organizations with P&SC for consideration.

We supported 2 young people to attend Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL's) Spring Lobby Days (now called Friends Changemaker Weekend), but more attended from this area. Herb is working on organizing a time for those participants to speak to us.

P&SC shared the progress in the US legislature toward disapproving weapons shipments to Israel. Friends were encouraged to call Senator Wyden who, for the first time, voted to stop this funding. The measure did not pass, but disapproval is gaining more and more support.

Friends encouraged P&SC to do more about connecting with Friends' concerns about the current political situation. Friends shared the need for greater interaction around these issues within the larger Meeting in the context of Meeting for Worship as well. This was referred to M&C.

A weekly Vigil for Gaza is from 12 -1 pm Mondays at the corner of Barnett and Highland Road in Medford. *All are welcome!*

Friendship & Hospitality: In June there will be a quarterly outdoor potluck after Meeting for Worship. Date TBD

Jamie and Bob will attend a 30 May **Listening to High Schoolers** event at Ashland HS.

Today's 1st in-person business meeting in 6 years: The power of interacting in the same room!

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Webster, Assistant Clerk
Ann Gaffney, Recording Clerk

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

Assistant Clerk: Rochelle Webster 646-5186

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Recording Clerk: Ann Gaffney 603-490-7193

Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 646-8225 with Kitty Cable (tech support)

Joint Committee Delegates: Richard Spencer 707-543-6330; Merlin McDaniel 301-6054

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421, David Runkel 210-0031, Jean Semrau 646-8225, Jim Lobsenz 206-399-2782, Valeria Breiten/Rochelle Webster (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee: Adam Thompson 201-8255, Lori Fleuter, Kathleen Donham, JoAnn Sustrick

***Peace and Social Concerns:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848, Ken Deveney, Jim Lobsenz, Steve Radcliffe, Fernando Gapasin

***Finance:** Ann Gaffney, Jean Semrau, Adam Thompson (*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Ká Hering 778-5206, Crystal Bosbach, Cathy McDaniel, JoAnn Sustrick

Welcomers: Andra Hollenbeck, Bob Morse, Richard Spencer, Fernando Gapasin

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse morse@mind.net Tuesday after Business Meeting

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470

***Applied Improv:** Rochelle Webster 646-5186

***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084, Marian Spadone 503-252-1624

***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 301-6054

***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Nancy Spear 626-4377-8913

***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Friends Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

***Friends Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329

***Meditation on Peace/Love:** Ká Hering 778-5206, Fernando Gapasin 503-917-1286

***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206

***Racial Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449

***Song Circle:** Rochelle Webster 646-5186

***Young Adult Friends:** Hazel Jordan 360-229-5498

***Zoom Support:** Samantha Archer 385-645-1546, Rochelle Webster 646-5186

Other Contact Persons

Librarian: Tara Jones 817-471-5120

Newsletter: Bob Morse 482-8449

NPYM Coordinating Committee: Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Web Site Administration: Bob Morse 482-8449

Monthly Neighborhood Gatherings

***Dancing Bears group:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848

***Outliers group:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225

***Sunday Afternoon group:** Lucy Edwards 941-7539

***Quaker Kin:** Bob Morse 482-8449

**All new and longtime participants welcome*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520